

55 will have been amended, and claims 1-7, 9-19, 21-30 and 32-59 will be all the claims pending in the application. Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested. No new issues have been introduced by the Amendment. Entry and consideration of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In the Office Action, claims 56 and 57 have been deemed allowable, and claims 43-46 would be found allowable upon the correction of the informalities.

RESPONSE TO OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 13 AND 43:

In the Office Action, claims 13 and 43 are objected to for minor informalities. Accordingly, the Applicant herein has amended claims 13 and 43 to overcome the objection.

RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) & § 103(a):

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 25, 36-42, 54 and 55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Toyoda (U.S. Patent No. 5,812,278, hereafter Toyoda). Claims 47-53, 58 and 59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yamamoto (U.S. Patent No. 5,767,985, hereafter Yamamoto). Claims 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12-24, and 26-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Toyoda in view of Bloomfield (U.S. Patent No. 6,025,931, hereafter Bloomfield). For the following reasons, the above rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 13, 25 and 36:

The Applicant has amended the above claims to include the features recited in claims 8, 20 and 31. Specifically, the claims have been amended to include a means of selecting whether the public telephone network is released or facsimile reception via the public telephone network is started, when the transfer destination information or a signal related to a facsimile communication is not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from the public telephone network after call reception from the public telephone network. This feature is supported by steps 2-4 to 2-7 and 2-24 of Fig. 2 and the description in page 16, line 22 to page 17, line 16 of the original specification.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 8, 20 and 31 as being obvious from a combination of Toyoda and Bloomfield. The Examiner states that the selecting feature of the present invention is disclosed by step 1042, 1044 and 1046 in Fig. 11B of Bloomfield. However, Bloomfield only discloses that when time-out condition exists (YES of step 1042), the telephone call from the fax interface device is hanged-up (step 1046), but gives no hint or suggestion to start facsimile reception when time-out condition exists. Therefore, the amended claims 1, 13, 25 and 36 are believed to be distinguishable over Toyoda in view of Bloomfield. Additionally, claims 2-7, 9-12, 14-19, 21-24, and 26-35 are also believed to be distinguishable over Yamamoto based on their dependency from claims 1, 13, 25 and 36.

Claims 37, 54 and 55:

The Applicant has amended the above claims to include a similar feature cited in amended claims 1, 13, 25 and 36 except for the limitation of “facsimile or e-mail”. Since

Bloomfield fails to teach the means for selecting of the present invention, claims 37, 54 and 55 should also be distinguishable over Toyoda in view of Bloomfield.

Claims 47-53

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that Yamamoto anticipates the above claims. However, the Applicant maintains that Yamamoto could not anticipate the claims as suggested because Yamamoto fails to disclose a “means for receiving another instruction different from the instruction received based on a message return in response to a request from the transmitting source.”

Specifically, Yamamoto discloses a host unit 10 that sends a vocal guide message to a facsimile unit 30. The operator of the terminal responds to the vocal message by sending destination information and mail information to the facsimile unit 30 (col. 8, lines 26-65). Thus, at this point, the facsimile unit 30 has received a first instruction. However, we see no indication of the facsimile unit 30 receiving a second instruction, as suggested by the Examiner.

Specifically, the Examiner indicates that the reception of the second instruction is indicated in Yamamoto by step 116 (col. 9, lines 28-31). However, step 116 indicates only that data is received or transferred to the host unit 10, not the facsimile unit 30. Therefore, Yamamoto does not seem to disclose that the facsimile unit 30 (communication apparatus) receives another or a second instruction, as recited in claim 47. Therefore, claim 47 is believed to be distinguishable over Yamamoto at least for this reason. Additionally, claims 48-53 are also believed to be distinguishable over Yamamoto based on their dependency from claim 47.

Serial No. 09/123,145

Docket No. 1232-4458

CONCLUSION

In view of the above Amendment and arguments, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are patentable over the prior art of record, and are now in condition for allowance.

AUTHORIZATION


No fee is due by filing of this paper. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4458.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT
Docket No. 1232-4458

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: K. SEKIGUCHI :
Serial No.: 09/123,145 : Group Art Unit: 2622
Filed: July 27, 1998 : Examiner: J. Pokrzywa
For: COMMUNICATION SYSTEM AND COMMUNICATION APPARATUS
BUILDING THE SYSTEM

ATTACHMENT SHOWING MARKUP OF CHANGES

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Amendments made to the claims herein are indicated in this attachment by bracketing the text that has been deleted and underlining the text that has been added.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 8, 20 and 31 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Please note the following amendments to claims 1, 13, 14, 25, 36, 37, 43, 54 and 55:

--1. (Thrice Amended) A communications apparatus comprising:

means for connecting to a computer network;

means for connecting to a public telephone network;

--facsimile reception means for receiving facsimile image data from the public telephone network;

means for receiving transfer destination information of e-mail data from the public telephone network [by a protocol signal of a facsimile communication protocol and for discriminating the transfer destination information included in the protocol signal];

conversion means for converting the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format; [and]

transmission means for designating an e-mail destination of the computer network on the basis of the [discriminated] received transfer destination information, and transmitting the e-mail data converted by said conversion means to a destination designated by the transfer destination information; and

means for selecting whether the public telephone network is released or facsimile reception via the public telephone network is started, when the transfer destination information or a signal related to a facsimile communication is not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from the public telephone network after call reception from the public telephone network.

13. (Thrice Amended) A method for a communication apparatus, connected to a Computer network and a public telephone network, the communication apparatus having a Facsimile communication function, the method comprising the steps of:

Receiving a remote instruction including transfer destination information from the public telephone network by a protocol signal of a facsimile communication protocol;

Receiving facsimile image data from the public telephone network;

converting the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format; [and]

[discriminating the transfer destination information including in the received protocol signal; and]

designating an e-mail destination of the computer network based on the [discriminated]

received transfer destination information, and transmitting the converted e-mail data to a destination designated by transfer destination information; and

selecting whether the public telephone network is released or facsimile reception via the public telephone network is started, when the transfer destination information or a signal related to a facsimile communication is not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from the public telephone network after call reception from the public telephone network.

25. (Thrice Amended) A storage medium which stores a computer program executed by a computer of a communication apparatus, connected to a computer and a public telephone network, the communication apparatus having a facsimile communication function, said computer program having:

processing of receiving a remote instruction including transfer destination information from the public telephone network [by a protocol signal of a facsimile communication protocol];

processing of receiving facsimile image data via the public telephone network;

processing of converting the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format;

[processing of discriminating the transfer destination information including in the received protocol signal; and]

processing of designating an e-mail destination of the computer network based on the [discriminated] received transfer destination information, and transmitting the converted e-mail data to a destination designated by transfer destination information; and

processing of selecting whether the public telephone network is released or facsimile reception via the public telephone network is started, when the transfer destination information or a signal related to a facsimile communication is not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from the public telephone network after call reception from the public telephone network.

36. (Thrice Amended) A communication system including a communication apparatus which is connected to a computer network and a public telephone network, the communication apparatus having a facsimile communication function, the computer network having an e-mail server,

wherein said communication apparatus receives facsimile image data from the public telephone network upon reception of a remote instruction including transfer destination information from the public network on the basis of a facsimile communication, converts the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format, [discriminates the transfer destination information included in a protocol signal of the facsimile communication, and] transmits the e-mail data by designating an e-mail destination based on the [discriminated] received transfer destination, and selects whether the public telephone network is released or facsimile reception via the public telephone network is started, when the transfer destination information or a signal related to a facsimile communication is not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from the public telephone network after call reception from the public telephone network, and

said e-mail server receives the transmitted e-mail data in a post office corresponding to the e-mail destination.

37. (Thrice Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

means for connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses, respectively;

means for receiving information data with destination address data via one of said networks from a transmission source [, wherein said destination address data is included in a standard protocol signal]; [and]

means for changing a format of said information data and said destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network by discriminating said destination address data [included in the standard protocol signal]; and

means for selecting whether the communication is continued or not via said network is started, when said information data or said destination data is not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from said network after a session is started via said network.

43. (Twice Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

means for connecting to a computer network;

means for connecting to a public telephone network;

facsimile reception means for receiving facsimile image data from a transmitting source via the public telephone network;

returning means for returning a message in response to a request received from the transmitting source via the public telephone network;

first instruction reception means for receiving an instruction generated based on said message returned by said returning means;

second instruction reception means for receiving an instruction [indicates] indicating a facsimile communication without reception of the instruction by said first instruction reception means;

conversion means for converting the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format;

processing means for processing the facsimile image data received by said facsimile reception means without performing the converting by said conversion means in a case where said second instruction reception means receives the instruction; and

transmission means for transmitting the e-mail data converted by said conversion means in accordance with the instruction received by said instruction by one of said first and said second reception means.

54. (Twice Amended) A method for a communication apparatus comprising the steps of:
connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses,
respectively;

receiving information data with destination address data via one of said networks from a transmission source[, wherein said destination address data is included in a standard protocol signal]; [and]

changing a format of said information data and said destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network by discriminating said destination address data [included in the standard protocol signal]; and

selecting whether the communication is continued or not via said network is started, when said information data or said destination data is not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from said network after a session is started via said network.

55. (Twice Amended) A computer program for a communication apparatus comprising:

computer readable program code means for connecting various types of networks that have unique formats and addresses, respectively;

computer readable program code means for receiving information data with destination address data via one of said networks from a transmission source[, wherein said destination address data is included in a standard protocol signal]; [and]

computer readable program code means for changing a format of said information data and said destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network by discriminating said destination address data [included in the standard protocol signal]; and

computer readable program code means for selecting whether the communication is continued or not via said network is started, when said information data or said destination data is not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from said network after a session is started via said network.--